

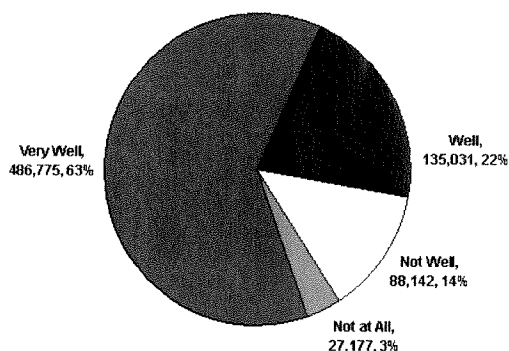
MICHIGAN

Limited English Proficiency

According to Census 2000, nearly 300,000 Michigan residents over the age of five speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well,” meeting the definition of limited English proficient. This amounts to **27,177** Michigan residents who speak no English at all. 3.2 percent of the state’s population, up from 2.2 percent in 1990.

Nearly 130,000 Michigan residents (1.4 percent) speak English “not well” or “not at all.” While 90,000 of these severely limited English proficient residents were born outside of the United States, nearly 40,000 are Americans by birth.

English Speaking Ability of Michigan Residents who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, 2000



Immigration and Assimilation

Michigan has long been a popular destination for newcomers to the United States. According to Census 2000, more than 523,000 Michigan residents were born outside of the United States.

Of these foreign born residents, 46 percent had become citizens of the United States, 45 percent had arrived in United States during the previous 10 years, and 39 percent spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English “less than very well.”

Most Common Languages Spoken At Home

Rank	Language	Speakers
1	English	8,487,400
2	Spanish	246,680
3	Arabic	75,410
4	German	52,320
5	Polish	40,370
6	French	38,645
7	Italian	30,050
8	Syriac	25,920
9	Chinese	22,255
10	Korean	13,315
11	Albanian	12,915
12	Tagalog	11,915
13	Vietnamese	11,775
14	Russian	11,700
15	Japanese	11,480
16	Greek	11,165
17	Hindi	9,990
18	Romanian	9,390
19	Dutch	8,180
20	Serbocroatian	8,075
21	Urdu	7,735
22	Gujarathi	6,545
23	Miao, Hmong	6,175
24	Bengali	5,920
25	Finnish	5,720
26	Ukrainian	5,520
27	Telugu	5,455
28	Macedonian	5,005
29	Hungarian	4,850
30	Tamil	3,865
31	Panjabi	3,635
32	Armenian	3,460

125

Languages are spoken at home by the residents of Michigan. 59 of these languages are spoken at home by more than 1,000 residents.

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Public Opinion Surveys

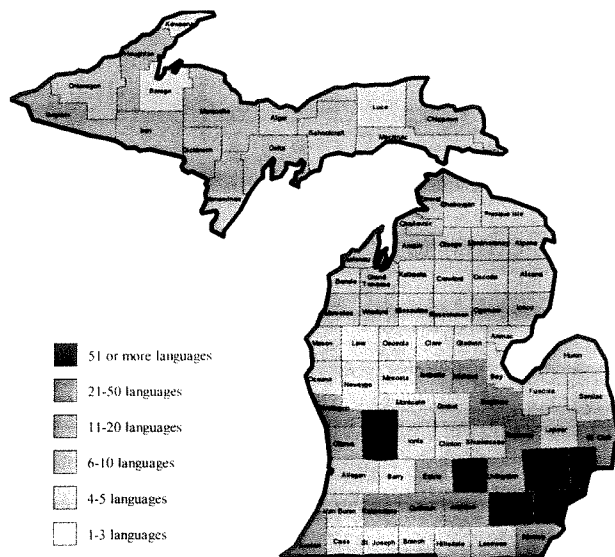
82 percent of Michigan residents support making English the official language of the state according to an March 2006 poll conducted by MRG Research. The poll of 600 state residents found that support was strong in every area of the state, as well as across age, political and ethnic lines.

Nationwide, 79 percent of Americans support making English the official language according to a 2005 Zogby poll, including 81 percent of first- and second-generation Americans.

82
Percent of Michigan residents support making English the official language of the state

Number of Languages Spoken, by County

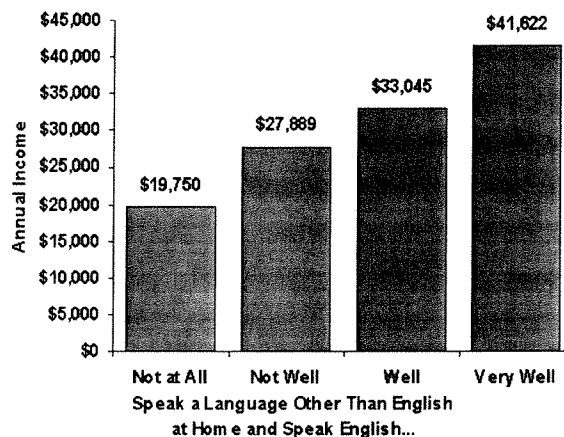
88 languages are spoken in Wayne County, the most of any county in Michigan, and 20th most of any county in the nation. Oakland County (77 languages) also places within the top 50 counties in terms of the number of languages spoken at home. Four other counties have more than 50 languages spoken: Washtenaw, Ingham, Kent and Macomb.



Language Proficiency and Income

An analysis of the 2000-2004 Public Use Microdata Samples from the U.S. Census found a startling difference in annual earnings based on the level of English proficiency. The average full-time Michigan worker who spoke no English at all had an annual income of \$19,750 during this span. Knowledge of a little bit of English increased annual income by more than 40 percent, to \$27,889. Workers who spoke another language at home, but who spoke English very well had an average annual income of more than double that of those who spoke no English at all.

Average Annual Income for Michigan Residents Working Full-Time



The average full-time Michigan worker who spoke no English at all annually earned

\$19,750

The average full-time Michigan worker who spoke another language at home, but spoke a little English annually earned

\$27,889